

Jessica Tillman

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Medications Commonly used in Maternal Newborn

| Medication | Mechanism of Action/Use | Nursing considerations |
|--------------|--|---|
| Methotrexate | Methotrexate reverses dihydrofolate and blocks reduction of folic acid. This reversal is needed to accomplish protein and DNA synthesis. Used for the treatment of tumors, leukemia, lymphoma, lymphosarcoma, osteosarcoma, mycosis fungoides, psoriasis, RA, and polyarticular course/juvenile RA. This medication can be used to treat cancer during pregnancy (Jones & Bartlett, 2022). | Methotrexate should only be prescribed by a provider experienced in antimetabolite therapy. This drug can cause severe or fatal toxicities. Contraindicated during pregnancy unless benefit outweighs risks, breast feeding, and conception during the use of Methotrexate (3 months after). Methotrexate can cause clients to experience impaired fertility, oligospermia, and menstrual dysfunction (Jones & Bartlett, 2022). |
| Mifepristone | Mifepristone is utilized to terminate a pregnancy within the first 70 days of gestation (Drugs.com, 2023). | Monitor the client for dizziness, fainting, issues with balance, and weakness. Be aware that the client may experience abdominal pain and vaginal bleeding within the first 16 days and that if it becomes unbearable the client will need to contact their provider (Drugs.com, 2023). |
| Rhogam | Rhogam is an immune globulin utilized in the prevention of an immune response to RH positive blood within a person who is a RH negative blood type. Rhogam is also utilized in the treatment of ITP (Drugs.com, 2023). | Monitor the client for adverse reactions including extreme pain, jaundice, blood clots, blood in urine, signs of infection, signs of kidney failure, shortness of breath, confusion, and rapid breathing. A client with immune globulin A (IgA) deficiency with an antibody to IgA or a client with hemolytic anemia should not receive this medication (Drugs.com, 2023). |
| Promethazine | Promethazine competes with histamine for H1 receptor sites while antagonizing the effects of histamine and reduces allergy | Promethazine should not be used within 2 weeks of labor and should be used only if the benefit outweighs the risk. Monitor |

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| | <p>symptoms. Assists in the prevention of motion sickness, vertigo, and nausea by decreasing stimulation in the inner ear and decreases anxiety by blocking CNS receptor sites which decreases brain stimulation. This medication is prescribed to prevent and treat motion sickness, nausea, vomiting, vertigo, symptoms of allergic response, sedation, and to assist in the promotion of nighttime sleeping (Jones & Bartlett, 2022).</p> | <p>respiratory function due to suppression of cough reflex. Monitor hematologic status due to bone marrow suppression. Monitor for hypertension, hypotension, mental changes, fever, muscle rigidity, tachycardia, and tachypnea. Clients using promethazine should refrain from an intradermal allergen test until after 72 hours of using promethazine (Jones & Bartlett, 2022).</p> |
| Pyridoxine and Doxylamine | <p>Pyridoxine and Doxylamine are utilized together to treat nausea and morning sickness (vomiting during pregnancy). Doxylamine alone is an antihistamine that directly reduces histamine in the body that produces cold or allergy symptoms including runny nose, skin rash, sneezing, and itchy or watery eyes. It is also often used as a sleep aid. Pyridoxine alone is a form of vitamin B (B6) and utilized for vitamin B deficiency (Drugs.com, 2023).</p> | <p>Monitor the client for hallucinations, changes in respiratory status, confusion, severe dizziness, severe drowsiness, and changes in the amount of urine produced. Contact the provider if the client has utilized a MAOI within the last 14 days. This medication should be taken on an empty stomach with a full glass of water (Drugs.com, 2023).</p> |
| Ondansetron | <p>Serotonin receptors are blocked resulting in the reduction of nausea and vomiting. Ondansetron is used for the prevention of nausea/ vomiting associated with chemotherapy, postoperative sedation, and radiotherapy (Jones & Bartlett, 2022).</p> | <p>Medication should be used with caution during pregnancy and lactation. Know that medication is used in clients with dopamine dysregulation syndrome. Understand that the medication should not be given to clients with hepatic impairment. Monitor and report to the provider if the client</p> |

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| | | experiences episodes of excessive sleepiness, hypotension, dyskinesia, hallucinations, or neuroleptic malignant syndrome (Jones & Bartlett, 2022). |
| Betamethasone | Betamethasone is a topical steroid utilized in the treatment of dermatitis or plaque psoriasis (Drugs.com, 2023). | Betamethasone should be applied by using the clean technique to skin that is intact. Monitor the client's skin for any signs of irritation or infection. Be aware that the use of a topical steroid must be ordered by a provider and can cause an interference with a child's growth or development (Jones & Bartlett, 2022). |
| Indomethacin | Indomethacin blocks cyclooxygenase that causes an inflammatory response resulting in inflammation, pain, swelling, and vasodilation. When cyclooxygenase is blocked inflammation is reduced and pain is relieved. Indomethacin is an NSAID that is utilized to relieve symptoms of osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, gouty arthritis, inflammation, and shoulder pain because of bursitis or tendinitis, and mild to moderate acute pain. Indomethacin is also used to treat premature infants weighing between 1 and 3.9 pounds that are diagnosed with ductus arteriosus (Jones & Bartlett, 2022). | Indomethacin should be avoided starting within 30 weeks gestation and throughout the remainder of the client's pregnancy. Renal failure may occur within the fetus if use of medication persists after 20 weeks gestation. Breastfeeding is not recommended during the use of this medication due to its appearance in breast milk. NSAIDs should be avoided in clients who have recently experienced an MI and if it is not able to be avoided cardiac monitoring must be strictly followed. A client history of heart failure, GI bleeding, GI ulcers, hypertension, stroke, and thrombotic events must be closely monitored and treated if the client experiences worsening symptoms (Jones & Bartlett, 2022). |
| Magnesium Sulfate | Magnesium is necessary in the maintenance of normal nerve and muscle function, immune system support, heart health, and bone health. When anticonvulsants are utilized, it | May cause harm to the fetus by causing hypocalcemia and bone abnormalities during use by the pregnant woman. The use of Magnesium is discouraged while pregnant, breastfeeding, and within |

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| | <p>acts by depressing the CNS and aids in blocking neuromuscular impulses when it decreases acetylcholine. Magnesium Sulfate is used to provide magnesium supplements in TPN and in the treatment of magnesium deficiency and hypomagnesemia. Magnesium Sulfate is also used to prevent and control seizures and seizure symptoms (Jones & Bartlett, 2022).</p> | <p>the first 2 hours post-delivery. Magnesium can result in the production of watery stools, slow heart rate, difficulty breathing, hypermagnesemia, speech related issues, lowering of blood pressure, depressed deep tendon reflexes, diplopia, flushing, nausea, vomiting, weakness, and decreased electrolyte levels. Proper assessment and interventions must be a priority. Also, when caring for clients with cardiac concerns be aware that clients experiencing a low heart rate due to taking medications like beta blockers can be affected due to magnesium aggravating symptoms of heart block (Jones & Bartlett, 2022).</p> |
| <p>Terbutaline Sulfate</p> | <p>Terbutaline Sulfate is utilized by stimulating receptors within the lungs and increasing cAMP production. The relaxation of the bronchial smooth muscle results in an increased air flow. The increased flow of air results in the client experiencing bronchospasms. A bronchodilator is used to prevent or reverse bronchospasms resulting from asthma, bronchitis, or emphysema (Jones & Bartlett, 2022).</p> | <p>Terbutaline Sulfate is not recommended during pregnancy, labor, or breastfeeding due to complications and unknown reactions. This drug may cause complications with the uterus's ability to contract and may also cause direct complications to the fetus including increased heart rate and neonatal hypoglycemia. This medication must be cautiously given to clients with cardiovascular disease and clients blood pressure, heart rate, and chest pain complaints must be closely monitored and immediately addressed. A client's pulmonary function must be monitored closely and addressed if the client's quality of pulmonary function decreases (Jones & Bartlett, 2022).</p> |
| <p>Glyburide</p> | <p>Glyburide is an antidiabetic utilized in the control of blood glucose levels in type 2 diabetes. Glyburide stimulates the release</p> | <p>Glyburide is not recommended during pregnancy and can result in neonatal hypoglycemia and infant respiratory complications and</p> |

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| | <p>of insulin from beta cells within the pancreas. Glyburide enhances insulin's ability to bind to cell receptors while increasing insulin receptors (Jones & Bartlett, 2022).</p> | <p>hypoglycemia. Monitor the clients fasting glucose levels and CBC results closely. Monitor blood glucose levels for hypoglycemia in malnourished clients or those with adrenal, hepatic, or renal insufficiencies. Monitor clients that have an allergy to sulfonamide derivatives closely. Ensure that the client receives insulin as prescribed during times when stress is increased including infection, surgery, or trauma. Ensure that the client receives proper education from nursing staff and a dietitian if necessary (Jones & Bartlett, 2022).</p> |
| Insulin | <p>Insulin is an antidiabetic utilized to assist in the improvement of glycemic control in clients diagnosed with diabetes mellitus. Insulin lowers blood glucose levels and assists blood sugar to enter the body's cells resulting in the creation of energy and assists the liver in storage of blood sugar that can be utilized later (Jones & Bartlett, 2022).</p> | <p>The use of insulin during pregnancy and breast feeding is possible if the benefit outweighs the risk and if the client's provider is consulted. Clients should be monitored closely for hypoglycemia which can result in seizures or death. Monitor for necessary dosage adjustments, serum potassium levels, hypersensitivity reactions, and the client's blood glucose levels (Jones & Bartlett, 2022).</p> |
| Hydralazine hydrochloride | <p>Hydralazine hydrochloride is an antihypertensive medication that assists in the management of hypertension by reducing blood pressure. Hydralazine hydrochloride performs a vasodilation effect on vascular smooth muscle, interferes with calcium movement within the muscle, dilates arteries, and causes a reflex autonomic response (Jones & Bartlett, 2022).</p> | <p>Monitor the clients blood pressure and pulse rate regularly. Weigh the client daily. Assess clients for orthostatic hypotension. Monitor clients before, during, and after treatment for ANA titer, CBC, and lupus erythematosus cell preparation. The use of Hydralazine hydrochloride during pregnancy and breastfeeding is possible but only recommended with a provider's order (Jones & Bartlett, 2022).</p> |
| Labetalol | <p>Labetalol is an antihypertensive used to manage hypertension by</p> | <p>Labetalol may cause bradycardia, hypoglycemia, hypotension, and</p> |

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| | blocking alpha 1 and beta 2 receptors within the smooth muscle of the heart directly reducing blood pressure to prevent tachycardia (Jones & Bartlett, 2022). | respiratory depression within newborns. Labetalol is known to be present within breastmilk and a provider should be consulted and used with a provider's order (Jones & Bartlett, 2022). |
| Nifedipine | Nifedipine is a calcium channel blocking agent utilized by relaxing the heart muscles and blood vessels to assist in the treatment of hypertension and chest pain (Drugs.com, 2023). | Monitor client's vitals closely and signs of cardiac complications including swelling of extremities, chest pain, and chest heaviness (Drugs.com, 2023). |
| Calcium gluconate | Calcium gluconate is used to manage hypocalcemia, hyperkalemia, and to assist in providing calcium during a transfusion. Calcium gluconate assists in the maintenance of the nervous system and musculoskeletal system by increasing the body's calcium intake required to maintain the balance of the body systems (Jones & Bartlett, 2022). | While the client is receiving Calcium gluconate treatments through an IV ensure that the site is assessed regularly and if infiltration occurs stop the infusion and contact the provider immediately. Hypercalcemia is dangerous to clients experiencing renal failure or undergoing dialysis. Avoid calcium supplements including antacids that contain calcium. Monitor the client's serum calcium levels and signs of aluminum toxicity. Consult provider before use in clients that are currently pregnant or breastfeeding (Jones & Bartlett, 2022). |
| Misoprostol | Misoprostol is utilized in reducing stomach acid and the protection of the stomach's lining from damage caused by NSAIDs. Misoprostol is also used during labor to assist with inducing labor. Misoprostol can also be utilized to discontinue a pregnancy (Drugs.com, 2023). | Misoprostol should never be used during pregnancy because of its ability to terminate the pregnancy. A negative pregnancy test is required before prescribing Misoprostol. This drug should be taken with meals and the provider should be contacted if abdominal pain, nausea, or diarrhea lasts longer than 8 days (Drugs.com, 2023). |
| Cervidil | Cervidil is an uterotonic agent that is utilized to open a client's cervix by relaxing uterine muscles to assist with inducing | Monitor allergic symptoms like hives, respiratory complications, bleeding, abdominal pain, chest pain, or contractions that are |

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| | labor (Drugs.com, 2023). | slowing down rather than increasing. Clients heart rate and contractions should be continuously monitored, and all client medications should be known to prevent drug interaction (Drugs.com, 2023). |
| Penicillin G | Penicillin G is an antibiotic utilized for the treatment of infections caused by gram-positive and gram-negative organisms. Penicillin G inhibits the bacterial cell wall, binds to proteins, and destroys infection (Jones & Bartlett, 2022). | A culture sample must be obtained before treatment with Penicillin G to know what infection is being treated before any treatments are performed. Monitor the client for allergic reactions to Penicillin G and treat accordingly. Assess the client for clostridium difficile, sodium levels, heart failure, hypertension, fluid overload, and any other severe adverse reactions that may occur. Consult provider before use in clients that are currently pregnant or breastfeeding (Jones & Bartlett, 2022). |
| Methylergonovine | Methylergonovine is utilized in the delivery of the placenta and assists in controlling bleeding and uterine muscle tone after childbirth (Drugs.com, 2023). | Methylergonovine should only be utilized after childbirth not during and the client should refrain from breastfeeding for 12 hours after using this medication. All breastmilk should be discarded during that 12-hour timeframe. Monitor the client's vitals and any signs of severe headache, bleeding, seizure, chest pain, ringing of ears, hypertension, swelling, slurred speech, confusion, numbness, tingling, and lightheadedness (Drugs.com, 2023). |
| Nalbuphine (Nubain) | Nalbuphine is an opioid analgesic used for pain relief. Nalbuphine binds to receptors that stimulate the spinal cord and CNS. Nalbuphine alters the client's pain response and provides relief (Jones & Bartlett, | Nalbuphine is not recommended for clients that are currently pregnant or breastfeeding. Nalbuphine can cross over the placental barrier and cause harm to the fetus including NOWS, bradycardia, respiratory depression, brain function, and |

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| | 2022). | death. Nalbuphine may lead to respiratory depression, severe constipation, neurological effects, addiction, overdose, and death. Be aware of any medications with an adverse reaction while using Nalbuphine and monitor the client for signs and symptoms of respiratory depression, coma, and sedation. Be aware that the client may experience withdrawal symptoms if the client stops Nalbuphine without being tapered down instead of abruptly ending this medication (Jones & Bartlett, 2022). |
| Naloxone | Naloxone is an opioid antagonist used in the treatment of opioid overdose, postoperative respiratory depression, and hypotension caused by septic shock. Naloxone reverses the effects to the CNS and receptors by reversing analgesia, hypotension, respiratory depression, and sedation as an effect of opioid use or misuse (Jones & Bartlett, 2022). | Naloxone is not recommended for clients that are currently pregnant or breastfeeding. Naloxone can cross over the placental barrier and cause harm to the fetus including opioid withdrawal and distress. Once Naloxone is administered the client may experience nausea, diaphoresis, vomiting, hypotension, pulmonary edema, seizures, and ventricular arrhythmias. Be aware of opioid withdrawal signs and symptoms. Clients may experience increased blood circulation that experience hepatic or renal dysfunction (Jones & Bartlett, 2022). |
| Fentanyl | Fentanyl is an opioid analgesic utilized for anesthesia purposes, pain relief from severe chronic pain, and to assist in pain control for clients diagnosed with cancer. Within the CNS Fentanyl binds to receptor sites to assist in altering pain (Jones & Bartlett, 2022). | Fentanyl is not recommended for clients that are currently pregnant or breastfeeding. Fentanyl can cross over the placental barrier and cause harm to the fetus including NOWS. Monitor clients closely including vital signs, respiratory depression, adrenal insufficiency, drug interactions, withdrawal symptoms, fever, overdose, blood glucose level, CNS depression, opioid abuse, and clients diagnosed with COPD (Jones & Bartlett, 2022). |

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| Ibuprofen | Ibuprofen is an NSAID utilized to relieve pain, reduce fever, RA, osteoarthritis, and to relieve migraine pain and symptoms. Blocks the enzyme needed to produce an inflammatory response that causes pain, swelling, and vasodilation resulting in a reduction of inflammatory symptoms and pain relief (Jones & Bartlett, 2022). | Ibuprofen use should be discussed with the clients OBGYN before using it while pregnant or breastfeeding. Clients should discuss the use of Ibuprofen with their provider if they have a history of MI, heart failure, GI bleeding, stroke, or hypertension. Monitor clients with a history of long-term use of Ibuprofen for anorexia, GI bleeding, diverticulitis, inability to eat, constipation, esophagitis, GI upset, reflux, hemorrhoids, hernia, and vomiting. The client's liver function and enzymes should be monitored closely as well as BUN, CBC, WBC, and blood glucose levels (Jones & Bartlett, 2022). |
| acetaminophen | Acetaminophen is a non-opioid analgesic that is utilized as a pain reliever and fever reducer. Acetaminophen blocks prostaglandin production and interferes with the PNS affecting the generation of pain. Acetaminophen also directly affects the hypothalamus by assisting in the regulation of body temperature (Jones & Bartlett, 2022). | Acetaminophen is not recommended for clients that are currently pregnant or breastfeeding and the client will need to speak with their provider before using this drug. Clients who are diagnosed with any liver impairment, suffer from alcoholism, malnutrition, hypovolemia, or renal impairment should be cleared for use of Acetaminophen from the provider before use. Ensure that monitoring of the clients AST, ALT, bilirubin, urinalysis, and creatine lab results are a top priority. Monitor the clients daily Acetaminophen intake due to specific maximum daily dosage limits due to the drugs effect on the liver (Jones & Bartlett, 2022). |
| oxycodone | Oxycodone is an opioid utilized for the management of severe pain relief. Oxycodone blocks neurotransmitters associated with pain within the CNS that alter a client's perception and emotional response to pain | Oxycodone is not recommended for clients that are currently pregnant or breastfeeding because this drug can cause harm to the fetus including NWS the client will need to speak with their provider before using this drug. Monitor clients |

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| | (Jones & Bartlett, 2022). | closely including vital signs, respiratory depression, adrenal insufficiency, drug interactions, withdrawal symptoms, fever, overdose, blood glucose level, CNS depression, sedation, CSA, coma, BP related to severe hypotension, seizure disorder, opioid abuse, and clients diagnosed with COPD. Be aware that this medication must be tapered down because of the effects it will have on the client. Do not chew or crush this medication, this could lead to the dose being fatal. Oxycodone should be taken with food. Oxycodone should not be taken with alcohol or benzodiazepine without knowledge from the provider due to severe respiratory depression. Avoid driving or operating machinery while utilizing this medication (Jones & Bartlett, 2022). |
| hydrocodone | Hydrocodone is an opioid utilized to manage severe pain. Hydrocodone activates receptors within the brain and spinal cord to provide the body with pain relief when experiencing severe pain (Jones & Bartlett, 2022). | Hydrocodone is not recommended for clients that are currently pregnant or breastfeeding because this drug can cause harm to the fetus including NOWS, the client will need to speak with their provider before using this drug. Monitor clients closely including vital signs, respiratory depression, drug interactions, severe constipation, withdrawal symptoms, fever, overdose, CNS depression, extreme sedation, CSA, seizure disorder, opioid abuse, and clients diagnosed with COPD. Do not chew or crush this medication, this could lead to the dose being fatal (Jones & Bartlett, 2022). |
| ketorolac | Ketorolac is an NSAID utilized to provide short term management of acute pain often in a | Ketorolac is not recommended for clients that are currently pregnant or breastfeeding and the client will |

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| | postoperative setting. Ketorolac blocks the inflammatory response that is responsible for the reduction of vasodilation, swelling, and pain (Jones & Bartlett, 2022). | need to speak with their provider before using this drug. Ketorolac should be avoided in clients with a history of MI, CHF, GI Bleeding, ulcers, inflammatory bowel disease, hypertension, stroke, and bone marrow suppression. Monitor client's level of pain closely, BUN, creatinine levels, CBC, and WBC (Jones & Bartlett, 2022). |
| Hepatitis B vaccine | Hepatitis B vaccine is a viral vaccine utilized in the prevention of Hepatitis B (Drugs.com, 2023). | Contact the provider if the client experiences the following side effects or if they become unbearable. Pain, redness, or swelling at the injection site or experiencing dizziness, excessively tired, extreme weakness, severe headache, or a fever. If children experience diarrhea, fussiness, or not eating contact the provider immediately (Drugs.com, 2023). |
| Erythromycin eye ointment | Erythromycin is an antibiotic ointment utilized to treat bacterial infections of the eye (Drugs.com, 2023). | Clients that are currently pregnant or breastfeeding will need to speak with their provider before using this drug. Contact the provider if the client experiences symptoms of an allergic reaction to this medication (Drugs.com, 2023). |
| Phytonadione | Phytonadione is utilized as an anticoagulant reversal agent and vitamin. This drug is utilized in the treatment of vitamin K deficiency, bleeding problems, blood clotting problems, or other medical conditions (Drugs.com, 2023). | Clients that are currently pregnant or breastfeeding will need to speak with their provider before using this drug. Contact the provider if any signs or symptoms of an allergic reaction to this medication occur. Monitor the client for signs of respiratory depression or pain/redness at the injection site (Drugs.com, 2023). |
| Prenatal vitamins | Prenatal vitamins are utilized before, during, and after pregnancy to assist in providing nutritional supplements to improve the client's nutritional | Monitor clients for any adverse effects from this medication. Clients may chew or crush this medication and it should be consumed with meals. (Drugs.com, 2023). |

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| MMR vaccine | health (Drugs.com, 2023). MMR vaccine is utilized in the prevention of measles, mumps, and rubella in adults and children. (Drugs.com, 2023). | Clients who are planning on becoming pregnant and have not received the MMR vaccine should consult their provider and obtain the MMR vaccine 3 months prior to conception. Clients who are pregnant cannot receive the MMR vaccine during pregnancy. After receiving the vaccine be sure to advise the client to contact their provider if they experience swelling of glands, fever, chills, pain at site of injection, or joint pain and swelling. Children receiving the vaccine should not receive it until after 1 year of age. Monitor the child's pain level, swelling, joint pain, joint swelling, fever, chills, and injection site. The Child's platelet count must be monitored because the vaccine could initiate bleeding internally and could be deadly (Drugs.com, 2023). |
| Tetanus & reduced diphtheria toxoids/acellular pertussis vaccine | This vaccination is utilized in the prevention of tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis in children ages 10 years old and older. Pregnant clients may also utilize this vaccine for protection and prevention during the clients third trimester to assist in the protection of their fetus which will carry over to infancy (Drugs.com, 2023). | Nursing staff should understand the importance of this vaccination for the protection of their infant clients from anyone in contact with the infant. Clients should not receive this vaccine if they are allergic to the contents or if they have experienced a neurological condition after receiving this vaccination in the past. Monitor client for allergic reactions to the vaccination, fever, seizures, fainting, or severe pain and redness at the injection site (Drugs.com, 2023). |

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| Lidocaine mucosal gel | Lidocaine mucosal gel is a local anesthetic utilized in the prevention and relief of pain to numb the mucosa lining the mouth, throat, nose, and urinary tract. (Drugs.com, 2023). | Monitor for an allergic reaction including swelling, pain, confusion, dizziness, lightheadedness, and vision changes. Lidocaine mucosal gel can be utilized during pregnancy, during birth, and after birth and the client's provider should be consulted about use (Drugs.com, 2023). |

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